

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 4, after line 13, please add the following new paragraphs as follows :

Figure 3 is a graph depicting the relationship of Absorbency and Time.

Figure 4 is a bar chart depicting the relationship of GBP and total concentration of crosslinker.

On page 28, please delete line 12 as follows:

~~Figure 1. Absorption characteristics of Superabsorbent as a function of time.~~

On page 29, please delete line 1, and the Figure 1.

Please replace the paragraph on page 29, beginning at line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

In ~~figure 1~~ Figure 3, note is taken that the superabsorbent is made of a polyacrylic acid having 0 % neutralization that is mixed with the chitosan in a 1:1 ratio as discussed in the section Preparation of Superabsorbent Precursor. The resulting superabsorbent is neutralized to about 30 mole % by the presence of the chitosan and an aqueous solution. The graphs in Figure ~~[[1]]~~ 3 show the superabsorbent, surface crosslinked and non-surface crosslinked, continues to increase in absorbency over a period of 1440 minutes, i.e. 1 day.

On page 29, please delete lines 10-12 as follows:

~~Figure 2. Gel Bed Permeability vs. Total concentration of X-linkers (X-linkers :
PEGMAE acrylate and PEG 300DA, Ratio of PEGMAE and PEG 300DA : 1:1 by wt%,
Degree of neutralization of PAA : 0%, Ratio of chitosan and PAA : 1:1 by wt%)~~

On page 30, please delete Figure 2.

Please replace the paragraph on page 30, beginning at line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure [[2]] 4 shows the positive impact of adding more crosslinking material to increase the permeability of the superabsorbent. PSXM indicates no crosslinking agent in the superabsorbent and SXM indicates addition of the crosslinking agent.

Figures 1 and 2 have been moved from within the specification to independent drawing sheets as Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. Applicants are including Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 herewith as APPENDIX A and request that they be added to the application. It is stipulated that Fig. 3 is an exact replicate of Figure 1 as found on page 29, and Fig. 4 is an exact replicate of Figure 2 as found on page 30.